for pay channels. No data regarding the names of the countries, where the trend of dual recovery of revenue exists, is centrally maintained.

Import of set to top boxes

†2100. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether set top boxes would be imported;

(b) whether the manufacturing of the set top boxes cannot be done in the country;

c) whether the imported set top boxes would not cost more; and

(d) whether in case of any technical fault, spares of these set top boxes would be available easily in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A series of meetings were held with the indigenous manufacturers to ascertain their capability for making available the Set Top Boxes (STBs). It was, *inter alia,* indicated by the Consumer Electronics and T.V. Manufactures Association (CETMA) that they would require sometime to make these boxes available in the market. Hence, the indigenous industry was not full prepared to gear up to the situation. For a smooth and successful implementation of conditional access system, it was, therefore, decided to make these boxes available to consumers initially through imports by the Multi-System Operators and the Cable Operators from abroad until the indigenous production gathered momentum. Consequent on the reducation of customs duty on import of STBs, these would be made available to the consumers at affordable prices.

(d) Government through Cable Television (Amendment) Rules, 2003 dated 6.6.2003, has made it obligatory for cable operators to make provisions for rent, security deposit, repair and maintenance of STBs. In case of technical fault, if any it will be the responsibility of the cable operators to get them repaired/replaced. The above notification is available in Ministry's website *www. mib.nic.in*

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.